The Bible & Daily Living

Samson: a born loser

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
SAMPSON: A BORN LOSER
Lesson for July 10, 1983
Bible Study Passages: Judges 13-16
INTRODUCTION

Everybody loves a winner! Nobody likes a loser. We all know people who appear to possess all the marks of a sure winner but who end up a loser. The reverse is likewise true, namely, some losers later rise to the challenge and finally enter the winner's circle.

It bothers us most when we see people with marvelous potential waste their life in meaningless activity. We hate to see people with character make choices that are contrary to their usual best. We like to see our children choose those paths that will lead them to success and joy. When they choose a path of self-destruction we tend to suffer vicariously with them.

Jesus came to teach us how to win in life and death. Jesus himself displayed a winning attitude toward life and bitter circumstances. This week's lesson focuses upon a colorful character by the name of Samson. Here was a man who could have done a great work for God as a leader among the Hebrew people. We will learn how a lack of discipline and vengeance can be self-destructive.

A Nazarite From Birth (Judges 13:1-25)

It is ironic that such a oaf as Samson should be born under a Nazarite vow. There is irony also in the fact that Samson's birth was "divinely announced."1 The angel announced that Samson would be a Nazarite from birth, that is, he would be dedicated to God to live a holy life.

Under the Nazarite vow a man would abstain from alcohol, unclean food, and from contact with the dead. As a further sign of their commitment, they would refrain from getting a haircut.

Samson brings to mind all sorts of images about what it traditionally means to be a man. Samson had lots of qualities that young men aspire to and older men realize they never had. The biblical description of Samson pictures him somewhat like a modern day Incredible Hulk!

Samson's life is best characterized as a tragedy and loss of great potential. Although the stories of Samson are worthy to tell around the fireside, it was what he was meant to be and could have become that casts a shadow across his life. Samson never fulfilled his extraordinary potential. While his parents offered sacrifices and maintained their religious devotion to Yahweh, Samson was out "chasing the skirts"! He was a kind of playboy ... sensuous and impulsive. Although his body grew to almost unbelievable capacities for strength, Samson remained an adolescent in spirit and mind. He was emotionally retarded!

Perhaps the most famous event in his life involves his romance with Delilah. The Philistines used beautiful Delilah to find the source of Samson's strength. He responded playfully to her efforts to find out the secret of his strength. Finally, in desparation, Delilah got to him with her tears. The end result was that Samson was captured by the Philistines, who put out his eyes, reduced him to an animal, and made a public spectacle.

Samson Gets Revenge (Judges 16:18-31)

Samson never outgrew his militant outlook upon life. He didn't learn from his brutality and harsh way of looking at life. "A good Philistine is a dead Philistine" was his motto.

Samson's last act took place in the temple of the Philistines. Chained to the pillars, Samson prays for one last surge of strength to kill and destroy the enemy. What a contrast between Samson's dying prayer and the dying prayer of Jesus. Samson died quite in character ... hurting, killing, and bringing down a heap of destruction upon himself and others as his only monument.

He who could have ended up a winner wound up a loser, and it was his own fault. And if it could happen to Samson, one of our spiritual ancestors, then it could happen to us!

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois. (WLYP)

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Harris to visit

Clarence Harris, from Washington, D.C., will be at the Oakville Center Saturday, July 9, at 7 p.m. and at the Jesus Center Sunday at 11 a.m. giving a presentation about the Anti-Christ and the 666 system.

He is employed at Harvard University of Washington,D.C. and is the chaplin of the University of the District of Columbia. He is the author of the book, **Without Controversy Great is the Mystery of Godliness.** Clarence will also be showing films.

Revival slated

Revival services will be held at Providence Baptist Church in Red House July 10-13, at 7:30 p.m. each night.

The Rev. Elton McDowell will be the guest speaker. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Elliott says 'thanks'

Mr. Francis Elliott, coordinator of surplus food distribution, salutes the volunteers who assisted with distribution of surplus foods. Elliott says, "Thank You! For a job well done!"

Volunteers of the day are: Mrs. Mildred Elliott, Christmas mother who has assisted her husband with the surplus food program; Margaret and Bill Dudley; Charlotte and Newton Jennings; Ruth and Martin Webb; Theo Lewis; Jessie Carwile; Jessie Martin; John Montgomery; V.O. Mims; Betty Brochard; Rosella Harty; Harriett Abbitt and Marye Ann Alvis.

Elliott, who coordinates the surplus food distribution under the sponsorship of the Appomattox Department of Social Services with the assistance of Randy Williams, eligibility supervisor, announces a close down of the cheese and butter distribution until late fall. The Department of Agriculture has announced that there will be no distribution through the summer months.

The fall distribution is scheduled to include powdered milk, cheese, and butter.

Mt. Pleasant news

By ODELL CHAMBERS

Revival services were held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church last week. The Rev. Jack Wilson of the First St. Paul Baptist Church of Rustburg was guest evangelist.

Churches with choirs visiting the revival included Chestnut Grove, Zion Baptist, Canaan, Galilee, and the Community Chorus of Rustburg. We gained some new members, and some old members rededicated themselves.

The community was saddened by the death of Mr. Berryman Goode of Evergreen. Mr. Dan Goode is in the hospital. Our prayers go out to the family. God knows how much we can bear.

Tyneals Chambers and Jonathan Edwards are at Holiday Lake for the week.

Mrs. Emma Wood and daughter Mary, and Mr. and Mrs. Milton Chambers and family spent the holiday in Maryland visiting relatives and friends.

Voter registration will be held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in the fellowship hall July 14 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Anyone who has not registered is invited to do so at this time. Also, if your registration has expired, you may register again at this time. If you need a ride, call 352-8324 or 248-5510.

The Community Chorus of Rustburg will sing at Mt. Pleasant Sunday, July 10 at 3 p.m. to benefit the Mt. Pleasant Sunday School.

Recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Woolridge include Mrs. Ada Roberts of Columbia, S.C.; Mr. and Mrs. Otis Roberts and family; Miss Yvonne Woolridge and friend; Mrs. Bertha Jane and her two boys of Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Turner of Lynchburg.

Weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ford Marshall included his mother, Rachel Goode, and his sister and brother, both from Maryland.

Miss Marie Freeman and Clinton Saunders are in Washington,D.C. visiting Clinton's mother.

The Pastor's Aid Club will meet Saturday at 2:30 p.m., and the Ladies' Aid Club will meet at 4 p.m. These meetings are very important. Please attend. We welcome new members.

Baptism will be conducted Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Please be on time.

Jordan Baptist news notes

The Senior Choir will practice Wednesday, July 6, at 7:00 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

On Saturday night, July 9 at 7:00 p.m., the Faithful Few Ladies Club will present 100 Women in Color. Special guest for this program will be the Mt. Zion Men's Chorus from Red House, Va.

Regular preaching will be held Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Deaths

Coleman Bennett Baileess

Coleman Bennett Baileess, 77, of Route 1, Hurt, died Saturday morning at his residence.

Born in Pittsylvania County May 6, 1906, he was a son of the late Ed Baileess and Minerva Tucker Baileess. He was a retired farmer and a member of Piney Grove Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Garland Worsham Baileess, of the home; one son, Larry Coleman Baileess, Evington; four daughters, Mrs. Doris Bennett, Mrs. Clara Stump, Mrs. Virginia Starkey, and Mrs. Hazel Dowdy, all of Hurt; one brother, Jim Baileess, Lynchburg; three sisters,Mrs. Nannie Woodson, Appomattox, Mrs. Katie Soyars, South Boston, and Mrs. Sally Saunders, Lynchburg; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Monday at Piney Grove Baptist Church by the Revs. James Worley and John McDaniel. Interment was in Altavista Memorial Park.

Johnny James Bryant

Johnny James Bryant, 73, of Route 3, Appomattox, died June 28, 1983, in Lynchburg General Hospital. He was the husband of Ethel Bryant.

Born in Buckingham County, he was a son of the late Alex Bryant and Edmonia Stanley Bryant. He was a member and deacon of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, where he was a former superintendent of Sunday School. He was a retired employee of the Virginia State Forest Service.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three daughters, Irene Norman and Barbara Elliott, both of Appomattox, and Vernell Harris, Sandston; a son, James Samuel Bryant, Lynchburg; three sisters, Hallie Childress and Fannie Gunter, both of Appomattox, and Emma Gowin, Buckingham; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Thursday at 2 p.m. in Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, with burial in the church cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

James Wilson Davis

James Wilson Davis of 2110 Main St., Lynchburg, departed this life Thursday afternoon at Veteran's Administration Hospital, Salem. His wife is Mrs. Ida Hamlette Davis.

Born in Charlotte County, he was a son of Mrs. Lillie Booth Davis and the late Issae Davis. He was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Red House, a retired employee of Marvin Templeton and Co. and a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

In addition to his wife and mother, he is survived by two sons, Aubrey O. Davis of Lynchburg and Arthur E. Davis of Brooklyn,N.Y.; two daughters, Miss Alice J. Davis and Miss Audrey A. Davis, both of Lynchburg; five brothers, Burrell L. Davis of Red House, Cail Davis, Winston Davis and Rondal Davis, all of Jamaica, N.Y., and Lowell Davis of White Plains, N.Y.; three sisters, Mrs. Margaret Broadwater, Miss Augusta Davis and Mrs. Alice Payne, all of Jamaica; a host of nephews, nieces, many other relatives and friends.

E. Paul May

Edgar Paul May, 76, of Red House, died June 28, 1983, at Lynchburg General Hospital. He was the husband of Ruth McSwain May.

Born in Guilford County, N.C., he was a son of the late Oscar Eugene May and Bonnie Gillbreath May. He was a member of Providence Baptist Church and a retired farmer.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a sister, Mrs. Gertrude May Carwile of Greensboro, N.C., and three brothers, Wade May of Greensboro, Clarence May of Red House and Roy May of Appomattox.

Funeral services were conducted at 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Providence Baptist Church by the Revs. Reggie Warren and David Brooks. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home, Appomattox, was in charge of arrangements.

Minor Hughes Marks

Minor Hughes Marks, 68, of Richmond, died at 2:40 a.m. Sunday in Bedford. His wife was the late Carmen Hendrick Marks.

Born in Appomattox County, he was the son of the late M.H. Marks and Rosa Lee Marks. He was a member of Temple Baptist Church in Richmond and was a World War II veteran.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Florence M. Martin,Richmond; a son Minor H. Marks Jr., Florida; three grandsons; and four sisters, Mrs. Elsie Perdieu, Burkeville, Mrs. Louise Burks of Kingsport, Tenn., Mrs. Gladys Wilcox, Roanoke, and Mrs. Florence Ranson, Pamplin.

Funeral services were Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Robinson Funeral Home with burial in Concord Cemetery.

The family suggests that those wishing to make memorials please consider Temple Baptist Church, Bethlehem Road, Richmond.

Anna Nelson Smith

Anna Nelson Smith, 73,. died Monday, July 4 at the Venice Hospital in Venice, Fla. She was formerly a resident of Appomattox.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was a 50-year member of the Order of Eastern Star, Balden Chapter Number 58, New York. While in Appomattox, she was a member of St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

She is survived by her husband, J. Whittpen Smith of Venice, Fla.; and two brothers, Arthur Nelson of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Hebert Nelson of Montgomery, N.Y.

Services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Appomattox, with burial at Liberty Cemetery, Appomattox.

The family will receive friends at Robinson Funeral Home from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday.

Wright in Korea

Sgt. Joseph M. Wright, son of Katie M. Wright of Rural Route 2, Pamplin, Va., has arrived for duty at Camp Casey, South Korea.

Wright, a food service specialist with the 2nd Infantry Division, was previously assigned at Fort Eustis, Va.

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Appomattox and Pamplin

Cannery workshop held

A cannery workshop for supervisors and lay instructors was held Thursday, June 30 at the Appomattox County High School. Cannery personnel at both the Appomattox and Pamplin Canneries were involved.

Purposes of the cannery workshop were to review procedures for record keeping, sanitation and safety, food inspection, and processing.

Art Dell'aria, food inspection service, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services was on hand to instruct participants in the workshop concerning sanitary requirements for cannery equipment, building, employees and patrons using the cannery. Mr. Dell'aria discussed the critical points to observe in the daily processing of food. He also provided helpful hints for cannery personnel to follow to insure that procedures of food processing would be acceptable to food inspectors.

R.B. Carter, Director of Vocational Education, explained the registration, daily and monthly records and financial record keeping procedures. He explained the procedures to be followed and how important all of the record keeping procedures would be to future canning processes.

Jimmy Burcher, instructor of agricultural education at Appomattox County High School and supervisor of the Pamplin Cannery reviewed sanitation and safety procedures.

Barry Sauls, instructor of agricultural education and supervisor of the Appomattox Cannery gave those attending the workshop procedures for report operations and cooking time schedules. He emphasized the importance of venting, following scheduled cooking times and using only receipes which have authorized cooking times.

Those participating in the workshop other than the above included Bertha Dickerson and Phyllis Richardson from the Pamplin Cannery along with Grace Williams and Patrick Harrison of the Appomattox Cannery.

PARTICIPANTS in the recent cannery workshop for the Appomattox and Pamplin canneries included (from left) Pat Harrison, Grace Williams, Art Dell'eria, Phyllis Richardson, and Bertha Dickerson. Dell'eria, a food inspection specialist with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, served as instructor for the worshop.

County Line news notes

Our sympathy goes to the family of Mr. Leon Powell of Roanoke. Mr. Powell passed away last week. Len was the brother-in-law of Mrs. Laura Ferguson.

Jennifer Nash spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Howard. She went to Kings Dominion on Tuesday and to the Smithsonian Institute on Thursday.

Jennifer Nash and Wendy Nash are spending this week at 4-H Camp at Holiday Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Nash and girls attended a picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Howard on Sunday.

Tina Nash of Greensboro, N.C. spent Sunday with her daddy, Lloyd Nash in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Nash and Dawn.

Attending the 4th of July cook-out at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Lewis and Renee of Spout Spring in honor of Johnny Garrett's birthday were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen Garrett, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Primm and Chris, and Johnny Garrett and Dawn Kerr.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Primm and Chris enjoyed a day at Kings Dominion and a short trip to Williamsburg last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Winifred Nash, Wendy and Will spent last week at Myrtle Beach.

Mrs. Laura Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Owens and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Coleman attended the funeral of Mr. Len Powell in Roanoke last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mann and family of Fredericksburg spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mann and also visited Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Mann and boys.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Mann, Robin and Stewart spent part of last week at Kings Dominion and Virginia Beach.

Mrs. Kathy Evans and girls visited Mr. and Mrs. Pete Banton and Phillip Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Graham and girls of Warrenton visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Nash over the holidays.

Mr. Addison Elder and son, John visited Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Nash Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Mayberry visited in the home of Elliott Nash last Sunday.

Our sympathy goes to the family and loved ones of Mr. Paul May.

Let's remember Mr. Robert Mayberry and Mr. Dillard Reed in our prayers. We hope they both will be better soon.

Susan Carson spent last week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash.

Mrs. Myrna Nash visited Mrs. Nettie McCormick on Monday.

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash were Mrs. Polly Seay and Mr. Louis Bryant and Tracey.

Supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nash on Monday were Mr. andMrs. Twyman Nash and Todd, Mr. and Mrs. Winifred Nash and Will, Mr. and Mrs. David Carson, Susan and Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Waddell and Loria.

Mrs. Emma Lee Robinson and Ian Wayne of Houston, Texas and Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Allen Smith of Appomattox visited Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mann last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Mann went to Kings Dominion on Thursday.

Chestnut Grove

(Continued from page 7)

ville. He is improving at home. His recent visitors included Mr. and Mrs. Howard Towsend, the Rev. Glynn Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wilkerson, Mr. and Mrs. T.M. Manis, Mrs. Mary Senger, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Morris, all of Farmville. Cook Hix and Raymond Johnson of Prospect; Tommy Trent of Tuggle; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Webb, Mr. and Mrs. C. Henson Morris, all of Appomattox; Mr. and Mrs. Garland Jennings of Richmond and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jamerson of Pamplin; Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Beasley and family of Troutville spent Sunday night in the Beasley home.

Sunday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin W. Morris were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Glover, Bobby Wood and Sandra, all of Lynchburg, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Morris and Rodney of Richmond spent the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. K.M. Beasley Jr., Kathy and Kemper III were Sunday visitors of Mrs. Katherine Carson at Spout Spring.

Recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Senger were Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rice of Crewe.

Mr. and Mrs. V.C. Proffitt and Mrs. Kemper M. Beasley Sr. visited Tommy Mottley and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Morris all of Burkeville last Monday.

Mrs. Kate Maples of Sevierville, Tenn. is visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. K.M. Beasley, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey N. Morris visited in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Berkley N. O'Brien of Dillwyn Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Henson Morris were recent visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin W. Morris and Mr. and Mrs. W.T. Cook.

$500 REWARD

$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons that are responsible for the vandalism at the Concord Elementary School on or around the night of Tuesday, June 28, 1983. All information received will be kept confidential.

PLEASE NOTIFY:
The Campbell County Sheriff's Department — 847-4974; Leonard Frady — 993-2257; or R. Gene Montgomery - 239-0633

Floyd Williams, Bill Hunter and Mary Alma Hudson (Left to right)

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